



Industrial Park Helps Build Value-Added Industry

Forest Service grant funds are helping a small community in Southeast Alaska rebuild its economic base and move toward its vision of the future.



Forest Service and USDA grants helped the City of Craig construct a marine industrial park that now allows them to both support and attract value-added industry. This is part of the City's plan to diversify economically.

The City of Craig is one of the small communities in Southeast Alaska hit hard economically by the decline in timber harvest. For several years, an industrial park has been part of Craig's plan to economically develop in other directions. In 1993, two years after the Forest Service

Economic Recovery Program began, the industrial park moved to the top of the City's priority list for development. The feeling is that the establishment of the marine industrial park would allow local value-added processing of fish and timber products that will add to the city's employment base. The park will allow industry to generate more revenue out of the natural resources extracted from the area."

Park Provides Access, Space and Infrastructure

The new industrial park is open and operating. Constructing it involved building an access road, installing city water and sewer lines, building a piling dock over the deep water adjacent to False Island, and developing lease lots. When a prospective tenant withdrew due to permitting delays, the project

was scaled back and the adjusted cost came to a little more than \$2.5 million. The Forest Service Rural Community Assistance programs contributed \$145,800 (5.4% of the total) in 4 separate grants between 1993 and 1997. Those funds paid part of the engineering and construction costs and helped purchase a public use crane that is installed on the finished dock.

SEA-CERT

In 1998, the Southeast Alaska Community Economic Revitalization Team (SEA-CERT), with USDA Rural Development's leadership, pulled three funding agencies together with the City of Craig to discuss potential financial support. The result was a funding package that completed the marine industrial park. This was the first successful application of the SEA-CERT process to help implement a project of this size.

Businesses Move In

Two companies, Alaska Power and Telephone and Stone Arts of Alaska, are leasing lots in the industrial park. A third company, Petro Marine, has constructed a new fuel facility at the park, including a public boat fueling dock, and is dismantling its old facility located in the center of town. That, in turn, will free up downtown space for better suited public and private uses.



The City of Craig's new industrial park is located outside town at False Island. The new facility is not only helping the city rebuild its economy through value added and other industry, it also allowed relocation of fuel storage facility from the center of the city to the new site.

The public use crane at the new False Island dock is one of the improvements paid for by a Forest Service grant.



This public boat ramp, part of the industrial park, was funded by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, one of the partners in the project.



The City is also in discussions with a couple of fish processors and other potential tenants at the industrial park, and is evaluating the feasibility of constructing a dry kiln and related facilities in the same area.

Vision, Plan, Focus

The City of Craig decided on its vision for the future, completed an economic development plan in support of that vision, and pursued the top priority project for

several years until it was complete. Now they are beginning to reap the benefits - more economic activity and more jobs for residents of the area. The project was a success because the City was able to stay focused on a plan, because the Mayor and City Council gave continued support and leadership, and because of the abilities of the City staff.

Partners in this Project

- ♦ Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- ♦ Forest Service, State and Private Forestry
- ♦ USDA Rural Development
- ♦ State of Alaska Department of Administration
- ♦ City of Craig

To Find Out More

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